REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 9-29 are pending. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 5-8, and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as not meeting the enablement requirement. In the response to the previous Office Action, claim 1 was amended to "A diagnostic method for detecting psoriasis which comprises; detecting a psoriasis patient whose sample's genomic DNA has less cytosine residues than healthy person's genome DNA." In the claim, the phrase "~ has less cytosine residues than healthy person's genomic DNA" was a clerical error. Claim 1 has been amended to read "~ the presence of not more than one methylated cytosine is indicative of the individual to a predisposition to psoriasis" in accordance with the helpful suggestion of the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection has been overcome. Furthermore, the Examiner suggested that the diagnostic standard of psoriasis be set at the point that the number of methylated cytosine residues in 4 tyrosine residues is "less than one methylated cytosine", however, we amend this standard to the point that the number of methylated cytosine residues is "not more than one methylated cytosine". As described in Example 1 (10), the probability of mistaking a healthy person for a patient is 3% in both cases where the diagnostic standard of psoriasis is set at the point that the number of methylated cytosine residues in 4 tyorosine residues is not more than one, and less than one, however, the probability of diagnosing psoriasis correctly is 73% in the former case, and 50% in the latter case. Consequently, the diagnostic standard has been set at the point that the number of methylated cytosine residues is not more than one.

Claims 1, 5-8, 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, as set forth in items 6A-D on pages 8 and 9 of the Office Action.

With regard to A), "the specific region" was considered to be indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended as mentioned above and the region is limited to specific cytosine residues. It is respectfully submitted that the amended claim is free of this rejection.

With regard to B), the description of "detecting a psoriasis patient whose sample's

genomic DNA has less cytosine residues than healthy person's genomic DNA" is considered to be indefinite. As mentioned above, there was a clerical error in this phrase, and "has less cytosine residues" has been amended to "has less methylated cytosine residues". Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been overcome.

With regard to C), it is indicated that there are grammatical mistakes which render the claim indefinite. Step a) in claim 1 has been amended to "collecting a genomic DNA from a patient suspected of having psoriasis" as suggested by the Examiner. Step b) in claim 1 has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion as mentioned above, because any amplification method can be used as long as it can amplify the genomic DNA such that the specific region in the genomic DNA can be detected. It is respectfully submittd that this amendment overcomes the rejection.

With regard to D), the Examiner indicated that there were no positive process steps. It is believed that this portion of the rejection has been overcome by the amendment.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version With Markings to show Changes Made."**

Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

1. A [diagnostic] method [for] of detecting [psoriasis which comprises;] a predisposition of an individual for developing psoriasis comprising:

a) collecting a genomic DNA from [each sample of patients,] a patient suspected of having psoriasis;

c) amplifying the genomic DNA [by] using primers; and [in accordance with PCR method,]

d) determining the methylation of cytosine residues [at the specific region of] in epidermal growth factor receptor [and,] at positions 668, 671, 687, 697 of SEQ ID NO. 4;

[detecting a psoriasis patient whose sample's genome DNA has less cytosine residues than healthy person's genome DNA.] wherein the presence of not more than one methylated cytosine is indicative of the individual to a predisposition to psoriasis.

15. A method of [detecting the methylation of cytosine residue(s) in the specific region of DNA involved in expression of epidermal growth factor receptor gene isolated sampling-blood.] claim 1 wherein the genomic DNA is collected from a blood sample of a patient suspected of having psoriasis.

16. A method of claim 1 [, 5, 6, 7, 8] or 15 wherein the method of detecting the methylation is a method using methylation sensitive restriction enzyme, a method using chemical modification by hydrazine, permanganic acids or sodium bisulfite, an immunological method using antibodies specific to methylated DNA, affinity column method or DGGE (denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis) method.